

West Stockbridge Planning Board
Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021
Via Zoom

Dana called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Planning Board members present: Dana Bixby, Chair, Gunner Gudmundson, Sue Coxon, and Andrew Fudge. Ryan Beattie unable to attend. Others present: Karen Kavanagh

Approval of Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2021 – Dana asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes. Dana asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Gunner said so moved. Sue seconded. The motion carried 3 to 0. Andrew (abstained because he was not at the meeting).

Zoning General Updates

Dana said there will be a Select Board meeting on October 4th in which the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet to discuss the standardization of special permit forms and processes.

After a lengthy discussion, the Planning Board thought that the forms are secondary to the process and would like to lead with that concept at that meeting. They thought that the discussion should address

- Statutory regulations related to special permits and subdivision control laws that are not being followed at the Town Clerk's office. It isn't because of neglect but based on misguided instructions to the Town Clerk from the prior administrator. Dana said she would write a letter to Marie and the SB suggesting that the focus of the discussion should be on process, not forms.
- Improving communication and coordination with other town boards as it relates to PB special permitting and subdivision regulations.

She would like the PB to begin developing a set of guidelines that she believes will not only help any new Planning Board member understand the processes and procedures that the PB must follow as it relates to statutory regulations, but it will be also help the Town Clerk better understand what her role is as it relates to Special Permits and the West Stockbridge Subdivision Control Law.

Dana said she and Randy Thunfors spoke recently about the Select Boards role as a SPGA. Randy would like to change the zoning so that the SB is no longer the granting authority for a number of uses assigned to the SB. Dana agrees with Randy and believes that the PB should change the zoning so that the PB becomes the SPGA for all uses assigned to the SB.

The PB discussed how the SB came to be assigned their SPGA responsibilities and offered some options that they could pursue in collaboration with the ZBA to modify the bylaws in a manner that would balance the zoning and technical issues with a broader civic scope of the SB.

Special Permit Application Extension

Dana let the PB know that she received and signed a "letter of agreement" from Lori Robbins extending the date for the Public Hearing to September 27, 2021.

West Stockbridge Subdivision Control Law

Dana asked if anyone has looked at the copy of the WS Subdivision Control Law that Karen had updated by integrating amendments that had been approved in the past. After a brief discussion, Dana suggested that the next step might be readopting the WS Subdivision Control Law with the integrated amendments. Dana asked Karen to check Bobrowski to see if there is a procedure to do that and if not, we'll ask town counsel the question.

Sue made a motion to adjourn. Andrew seconded. Motion carried 4/0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Kavanagh, Administrative Assistant